



March 30, 2004

OKLAHOMA BULLETIN NO. OK210-4-7

SUBJECT: ENG – Livestock Pipelines and Watering Facilities.

Purpose: To provide clarification on the planning, design, and certification of livestock pipelines and watering facilities.

Expiration Date: September 30, 2004

Following revision of the Pipeline (516) and Watering Facility (614) Conservation Practice Standards, training has been recently provided to all offices in the planning and design of livestock watering systems. Since this training, clarification has been requested on the viability of the Pipeline standard being considered as a “stand-alone” practice.

Livestock pipelines will be planned, designed, and certified as to meeting NRCS standards when all of the following conditions are present:

1. The pipeline meets the requirements of Conservation Practice Standard 516 – Pipeline.
2. A watering facility or combination of watering facilities are in place and plumbed to provide water on demand that meet the storage requirements found in Conservation Practice Standard 614 – Watering Facility.
3. Design of the pipeline is based upon a grazing plan that identifies the maximum number of livestock the producer anticipates to use the watering facility in future operations.

If any of the above three conditions are not met, then Conservation Practice Standard 516 – Pipeline, cannot be certified as meeting NRCS standards and specifications.

To facilitate expeditious cost-share payments to producers, the following allowances are made in the certification of pipelines:

1. If the storage requirements of Conservation Practice Standard 614 – Watering Facility are not present on the date of checkout for the Pipeline, then make record of the lack of storage on the Pipeline and sign the checkout notes with that exception, provided everything else meets NRCS standards and specifications.
2. At the time of checkout of a Pipeline that does not meet storage requirements, the district conservationist will write a letter to the producer informing the individual of the following items:
 - a. The Pipeline does not meet NRCS standards and specifications due to lack of appropriate storage.
 - b. Appropriate storage must be provided prior to the first rotation of livestock in the field, or a period of one year; whichever comes first.
 - c. The producer shall notify NRCS when appropriate storage has been provided.
 - d. If NRCS is not notified within the given time frame, then NRCS will determine that the practice is not being operated and maintained in accordance with NRCS standards. NRCS will notify the cost-share agency of the deficiencies found with the practice.
3. For state cost-share program payments and other cost-share programs outside the responsibility of NRCS, it is up to the cost-share agency to determine follow-up needed following notification of improper practice application.

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4. For EQIP and other cost-share programs with NRCS responsibility, payments can be made when certification by exception is made as noted in paragraph 1. When status reviews are completed and storage requirements are still not in place, then the contract will be placed in non-compliance.

Storage provided by ponds located in another field cannot be used to satisfy the storage requirements for Conservation Practice Standard 614 – Watering Facility.

If there are questions concerning these items, please contact your Resource Specialist or Resource Engineer.

/s/ M. Darrel Dominick

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State Conservationist

DIST: AE